

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A system for keeping ready bone screws, comprising:

a plurality of bone screws;

a keeping-ready device for the bone screws, wherein the keeping-ready device has a surface with a plurality of orifices for inserting the bone screws and the keeping-ready device allows inserted bone screws to be kept ready loosely and countersunk in relation to the surface, wherein each orifice includes a first shoulder portion having a first diameter and a second shoulder portion having a second diameter, wherein the first and second diameters are not equal; and

a removal instrument for removing a kept-ready bone screw from the keeping-ready device, wherein the removal instrument is dimensioned such that it is insertable into one of the orifices for removal of a kept-ready bone screw;

wherein the bone screws include different head shapes, wherein the heads of the bone screws are operable to rest upon either one of the first or second shoulder portions;

wherein the orifices are arranged in the surface in a plurality of rows;

wherein the surface has a thickness wherein the ratio of area to thickness is chosen such that the surface has no or only slightly springing properties.

2. (Original): The system for keeping ready bone screws according to claim 1, wherein the removal instrument and the orifices are dimensioned such that delimitation walls of the orifices allow at least partial guiding of an insertion movement of the removal instrument.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended): A keeping-ready device for bone screws, comprising:

a plurality of bone screws having different head shapes; and
a surface in which a plurality of orifices for inserting the bone screws is provided, wherein the keeping-ready device allows inserted bone screws to be kept ready loosely and countersunk in relation to the surface, wherein each orifice includes a first shoulder portion having a first diameter and a second shoulder portion having a second diameter, wherein the first and second diameters are not equal;

the surface including a first plate having a plate area in which the orifices are provided in a plurality of rows;

wherein the first plate has a plate thickness wherein the ratio of area to thickness is chosen such that the first plate has no or only slightly springing properties;

wherein the heads of the bone screws are operable to rest upon either one of the first or second shoulder portions.

5. (Original): The keeping-ready device according to claim 4, wherein the orifices have delimitation walls which act as a guide for a removal instrument for the bone screws that is to be inserted into one of the orifices.

6. (Original): The keeping-ready device according to claim 4, wherein the orifices are configured as pocket holes.

7. (Original): The keeping-ready device according to claim 6, wherein the pocket holes are constructed in such a way that the bone screws are kept ready lying on the bottom of the pocket holes.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented): The keeping-ready device according to claim 4, further comprising a second plate which is distanced from the first plate to such an extent that the bone screws are kept ready lying on the second plate.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original): The keeping-ready device according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the delimitation walls of the orifices in a region below the surface have a reduction in inner diameter.

13. (Original): The keeping-ready device according to claim 12, wherein the reduction in inner diameter has an inner diameter at least partially gradually decreasing from the surface.

14. (Original): The keeping-ready device according to claim 13, wherein the inner diameter decreases continuously or in steps from the surface.

15. (Original): The keeping-ready device according to claim 12, wherein the reduction in inner diameter acts as a stop for a head of a bone screw to be kept ready.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended): A device for keeping bone screws ready, the bone screws having bone screw heads and the device comprising:

a plurality of bone screws having different head shapes; and
a surface in which orifices are provided for loosely keeping-ready the bone screws with countersunk bone screw heads in relation to the surface, the orifices having walls that act as a guide for a removal instrument for the bone screws when the removal instrument is inserted into one of the orifices, wherein each orifice includes a first shoulder portion having a first diameter and a second shoulder portion having a second diameter, wherein the first and second diameters are not equal;

the surface including a plate having a plate area in which the orifices are provided in a plurality of rows;

wherein the plate has a plate thickness wherein the ratio of area to thickness is

chosen such that the plate has no or only slightly springing properties;

wherein the heads of the bone screws are operable to rest upon either one of the first or second shoulder portions.

18. (Original): The device according to claim 17, wherein the orifices include portions of reduced inner diameter that act as stops for the bone screw heads.

19. (Currently Amended): A device for keeping bone screws ready, the bone screws having bone screw heads and the device comprising:

a plurality of bone screws having different head shapes; and

a surface in which a plurality of orifices for inserting the bone screws is provided, wherein the orifices have portions of a reduced inner diameter for cooperating with bone screw heads and wherein the portions of reduced inner diameter are placed such that the bone screw heads are kept ready loosely and countersunk in relation to the surface, wherein the portions of reduced inner diameter include a first shoulder portion having a first diameter and a second shoulder portion having a second diameter, wherein the first and second diameters are not equal;

wherein the bone screws include different head shapes;

wherein the orifices are arranged in the surface in a plurality of rows;

wherein the surface has a thickness wherein the ratio of area to thickness is chosen such that the surface has no or only slightly springing properties;

wherein the heads of the bone screws are operable to rest upon either one of the first or second shoulder portions.

20. (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 19, wherein the orifices include portions of a widened inner diameter preceding the portions of reduced inner diameter in an insertion direction and wherein the portions of widened diameter constitute a guide for a removal instrument that is to be inserted into the orifices for removing the bone screws.